

Book reviews

in their own particular areas of interest, and provide up-to-date and readable accounts of the different facets of the problem.

Dr Borriello himself has contributed four excellent chapters on microbiological aspects; *Cl difficile* toxins are expertly reviewed by Drs Lyerly and Wilkins (Virginia Polytechnic Institute, USA) and Drs Thelestam and Florin (Karolinska Institute, Stockholm); while Dr Fekety (Ann Arbor, Michigan) provides an excellent account of experimental animal models. Authoritative contributions by Dr Tedesco (Medical College of Georgia, USA), Drs George and Mulligan (Wadsworth Medical Center, LA, USA) and Dr Burdon (Birmingham, UK) provide a splendid balance of clinical information, covering the spectrum of the disease, epidemiological considerations, aetiology, diagnosis, and management. An informative chapter by Dr Price (Northwick Park Hospital, UK) describes the pathology of the disease. The whole text is supported by some 350 well-chosen end references.

The publication is prepared from camera-ready copy and its physical presentation lacks any sort of uniformity. The chapters by Drs George and Mulligan were clearly prepared on a word processor; the other chapters illustrate the diversity of type faces available on departmental typewriters! An element of gay abandon creeps into the editing in some places, where "Tipp-Ex" corrections are prominent, and even the left hand margin does not always justify. There is no uniformity of chapter lay-out or heading values, and there is no index. I would have expected a "fair copy" for the asking price of £24.25.

But don't be put off by the very amateur presentation of the text, skilfully concealed as it is in a handsomely bound volume. For those who are concerned with antibiotic associated diarrhoea and colitis this is essential reading.

AT WILLIS

Recent Advances in Histopathology. No 12. Ed PP Anthony and RNM MacSween. (Pp 293; £18.) Churchill Livingstone. 1984.

This is a very worthy addition to the series of Recent Advances in Histopathology. The contents of this volume more than adequately satisfy the expectations of those of us who have long-awaited its publication

with heightened anticipation. The concise yet lucid style with which the book has been compiled conceals an enormous wealth of detailed information, while combining expertise with interest.

There are two features of particular note concerning this volume: the first is the very wide range of subjects examined—such that the generalist and specialist alike should each find items of relevance and interest. The included subjects range from the use of monoclonal antibodies through aspects of liver and gastrointestinal disease, to the pathology of brain damage and muscle disease. The second, and probably most significant feature, is the continuing trend away from static descriptive morphology and towards a functional and dynamic approach to pathological processes. Although present throughout the volume, this altered attitude is exemplified by the chapters concerning apoptosis and cell proliferation in health and disease.

This book is essential reading for all those who seriously intend to maintain a high level of understanding and to keep abreast of current trends in histopathology. It is excellent value at the current price.

CS FOSTER

Myocarditis Cardiomyopathy. Selected Problems of Pathogenesis and Clinic. Ed H Just and HP Schuster. (Pp 316; Soft cover DM 140; US \$54.40.) Springer. 1983.

This book is derived from a symposium of the same title, held in Mainz, and covers a wide range of topics including, unexpectedly, congenital right ventricular dysplasia.

Most of the authors are from German centres but their contributions have (presumably) been very well translated and are clear and easy to read. Illustrations are perfectly adequate too, even at ultrastructure magnifications.

Most readers of this journal will not be interested in the electrophysiology and therapeutics which form a substantial part of the volume, but there are also stimulating reviews and studies on correlations between infections and subsequent cardiomyopathy and in the possible role of auto-immunity and genetic predisposition.

While few pathologists will consider this book worth buying, those interested in heart disease should find it worth borrowing.

ARIELA POMERANCE

Lung Biopsy Interpretation. Eugene J Mark. (Pp 284; £37.) Williams & Wilkins. 1984.

Eugene Mark is well known for his excellent contributions to the CPC's in the New England Journal of Medicine and papers on pulmonary pathology. It is pleasing that his experience is distilled into this monograph.

The volume gives many tricks of the trade for trainees, such as the best place to find tubercle bacilli and how to distinguish *P carinii* from red blood corpuscles. Differential diagnosis on a light microscope level is to the fore and it is obvious that the author has suffered the loneliness of the microscope and worried about diagnostic problems. He discusses and gives diagnostic tables on how to differentiate many pulmonary problems. Relatively little use is made of immunoperoxidase techniques. There are no electron micrographs, which is unusual, since this technique can assist in diagnosis. Little attempt is made, as implicit in the title, to consider the aetiology or clinical features of the disease considered.

The reviewer found some of the illustrations and the referencing annoying. Some black and white pictures were out of focus, a few were at too low a magnification, and one had constantly to refer to the back for the colour pictures. The references at the end of each chapter were not repeated. Thus, important articles on lung disease in the immunosuppressed patient were found at the end of the chapter on Technical Considerations—not the first place one would normally look. However despite these relatively minor drawbacks, the book has a very useful place by the pathologist's microscope.

PS HASLETON

Edema. Ed Norman C Staub and Aubrey E Taylor. (Pp 786; \$180.00.) Raven Press. 1984.

This book must represent the definitive work on oedema with 30 chapters by multidisciplinary authors. The editors have adopted a uniform nomenclature which makes for easier reading. Their claim that this will be useful to "advanced physiology students, beginning investigators seeking new directions for their investigations, and the physicians and scientists involved in research on oedema and its clinical management" would seem to be justified.